

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nail-setting claw hammer head, comprising:
a main body disposed along and about a horizontal axis, a vertical axis
and a transverse axis which intersect one another perpendicularly at a
point of intersection to define a center of mass, the main body having a
top surface and a rear surface with the rear surface including a nail-
head receiving recess formed therein; and a claw connected to the rear
surface of the main body at a first end and forming a fulcrum surface
with the top surface, the claw curving about the point of intersection and
disposed apart from the rear surface, the claw terminating at a second
end opposite the first end with a pair of claw sections defining a V-
shaped slot therebetween, the nail-head receiving recess being
positioned to face the V-shaped slot and in a plane defined by the
horizontal and vertical axes.

2. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 1,
wherein the nail-head receiving recess is positioned vertically on the
rear face of the main body relative to the curvature of the claw so that
the longitudinal axis of a nail is substantially parallel to the horizontal
axis and substantially perpendicular to the lateral axis and the vertical
axis of the main body when a shank of the nail is held by the V-shaped
slot in the claw and a head of the nail is held by the nail-head receiving
recess.

3. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 1,
wherein the nail-head receiving recess is one of partially conically
shaped, hemispherically shaped, partially hemispherically shaped and
partially pyramidally shaped.

4. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 1,
wherein the nail-head receiving recess has a curved surface curving
about the longitudinal axis and a flat surface intersecting the curved
surface.

5. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 4,
wherein the flat surface is disposed between the curved surface and the

point of intersection.

6. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 5, wherein the flat surface extends in a horizontal plane.

7. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 5, wherein the flat surface is oriented relative to a horizontal plane at an angle in a range of 0.5 degrees and 10 degrees.

8. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 5, wherein the flat surface is oriented to extend away from the point of intersection as viewed exteriorly of the nail-head receiving recess as the flat surface extends into the nail-head receiving recess.

9. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 1, wherein the nail-head receiving recess defines an opening on and into the rear surface of the main body.

10. A nail-setting claw hammer head for holding a conventional nail having a shank portion and a nail head portion connected to the shank portion, the nail-setting claw hammer head comprising:

a main body disposed along and about a horizontal axis, a vertical axis and a transverse axis which intersect one another perpendicularly at a point of intersection to define a center of mass, the main body having a front surface, a top surface and a rear surface with the rear surface including a nail-head receiving recess formed therein;

impact member connected to and projecting from the front surface, the impact member having a neck and a hammer face; and

a claw connected to the rear surface of the main body at a first end and forming a fulcrum surface with the top surface, the claw curving about the point of intersection and disposed apart from the rear surface, the claw terminating at a second end opposite the first end with a pair of claw sections defining a V-shaped slot therebetween, the nail-head receiving recess positioned to face the V-shaped slot such that the nail-head receiving recess is sized and adapted to receive the nail head portion of the nail and the V-shaped slot is sized and adapted to receive

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the shank portion of the nail in order to wedge the shank portion therein, the nail-head receiving recess being in a plane defined by the horizontal and vertical axes.

11. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 10, wherein the nail-head receiving recess receives the nail head portion as the nail head moves in a generally horizontal direction away from the claw portion.

12. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 10, wherein the nail-head receiving recess is one of partially conically shaped, hemispherically shaped, partially hemispherically shaped and partially pyramidally shaped.

13. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 10, wherein the nail-head receiving recess has a curved surface curving about a conical axis extending generally parallel with the vertical axis and a flat surface intersecting the curved surface.

14. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 13, wherein the flat surface is disposed between the curved surface and the point of intersection.

15. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 14, wherein the flat surface extends in a horizontal plane.

16. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 14, wherein the flat surface is oriented relative to a horizontal plane at an angle in a range of 0.5 degrees and 10 degrees.

17. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 16, wherein the flat surface is oriented to extend away from the point of intersection as viewed exteriorly of the nail-head receiving recess as the flat surface extends into the nail-head receiving recess.

18. A nail-setting claw hammer head according to claim 10, wherein the nail-head receiving recess defines an opening on and into the rear surface of the main body.